

Dear Sirs

Re: RM 05-235

I am one of those rare amateur radio operators who handle messages on both phone and morse code (CW). Last night I was on a CW message handling net (they're referred to as "traffic nets") when a weak mobile station at Seeley Lake, Montana checked in with two messages destined for California. He could have used a digital mode such as Pactor but his home computer doesn't work in his car and he doesn't have a laptop computer. He said that his transmitter ran 10 watts into a mobile whip antenna. It's my understanding that he had tried the Montana phone net with no success. Fortunately he did know morse code well enough to get the messages through to me. Granted, the messages were not of the emergency nature but had they been emergency, I still would have copied them 100% and been able to secure aid for his situation.

I believe that every licensed radio amateur should have the ability, when the need arises, to be able to send and receive messages using morse code. The two primary modes of operation in the amateur radio service are phone (SSB & FM) and CW. Knowledge of each mode is essential if we are to conduct the amateur radio service in the public interest and to add to our pool of trained radio operators.

I know that I'm in the minority but I cast my vote in favor of retaining the morse code requirement for the amateur radio service. It is unfortunate that this is coming down to being a popularity contest and that this letter will be put on the small stack but I'm also a believer in the majority being wrong. If you vote in favor of retaining the code requirement, rest assured, you will be doing the right thing for the amateur service and in the public interest.

Yours truly,  
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